

NEWS RELEASE
November 7, 2001

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**SAN JUAN COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZED
WITH STATE FORESTER'S AWARD**

The San Juan County Fire Chief's Association has been honored for outstanding service to Utah's State Fire Assistance Program for their support on the Sawdust rural fire from October 6, 2001 through October 12, 2001. Utah State Fire Management Coordinator Dave Dalrymple presented the association with the Utah State Forester's Award during ceremonies held at Sundance Resort in Utah County.

"The Association was a key player in assisting state and federal agencies in controlling this fire," explained Dalrymple. "Without their cooperation and assistance the Sawmill Fire would have been much worse than it was, both in terms of facilities destroyed and associated costs."

Firefighters and equipment from La Sal, Monticello, Blanding, Bluff and Montezuma Creek played a key role preventing the loss of sawmill buildings and equipment valued at \$650,000. Their actions also prevented the spread of the fire into sawmill products valued at \$1 million, as well as the spread of fire into adjacent wildland interface with 10 homes valued at more than \$750,000.

Personnel from these agencies worked in rotating shifts to provide 24 hour per day coverage enduring extreme heat.

The award was presented at a meeting of county fire wardens held each year by the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. The meeting assesses wildland fire control efforts of the previous fire season.

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